Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of micro capillary-culture method for the isolation of Leishmania aethiopica parasites from patients with cutaneous lesions in Ethiopia

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Point by point response for reviewers

The authors would like to appreciate the comments given by the editorial and reviewers.

General comments:

My main concern is that the paper is - in my view - a typical example of a diagnostic accuracy study, but the way it is described does not follow that paradigm. I recommend you to use and adhere to the STARD guideline and try to address every STARD item in your paper. That helps you to provide the reader with the necessary elements and details of a diagnostic accuracy study, like your paper. Please follow the headings of STARD (including clear sections on the index tests and reference standard).

Author’s response: The comments are well accepted and addressed by STARD guideline as it is recommended.

A few other aspects may need extra attention. I do not understand the term significantly sensitive, as it seems to require a comparison with a certain lower limit of sensitivity, which was not defined I think. Also, I think the reference standard definition requires a very clear paragraph as it seems some kind of composite reference and even incorporating the index tests (with the risk
of incorporation bias). If this is the case, please elaborate on this. If not, make sure that the reference indeed was an independent standard test.

Author’s response: The comments are well accepted and the word ‘significantly’ is deleted.

Finally, address the fact that there are more samples than patients in your data - was this correlation handled in the statistical analysis.

Author’s response: Yes